

E-HAPPENINGS

WESTERN NEVADA COLLEGE

July 2009

NEWS AND EVENTS

Fall Enrollment on the Rise

Registration is ongoing for the fall semester that begins Monday, Aug. 31, and WNC enrollment is strong as many people seek to earn or update career skills. As of July 17, 3,298 students were enrolled, a 24% increase over the same time last year. Full-time enrollment was up 36%, date to date. Full-time enrollment was up more than 50% over the same time last year, and more students are seeking degrees. <http://www.wnc.edu/academics/schedule/>

Western Lowers Student Loan Default Rate—More Students Apply for Aid



News about the economy and employment may not be very good these days, and students seem to be taking seriously the opportunities that come with education. Western reports fewer students are defaulting on student loans and more who have been hard hit by the recession are applying for grants and loans to attend classes. Final figures won't be in for a month or so, but Director of Financial Assistance Lori Tiede, left, said preliminary numbers show a default rate of 6.7 percent on student loans for 2007, compared to a 10.5 percent default rate for 2006.

More Specialty Crop Seminars Offered – Lavender Harvest Time

Western continues its innovative education program to develop small farm agriculture in Nevada with a series of summer harvest workshops. The first workshop will be held during lavender harvest season at Lavender Ridge Farm in Reno, on Wednesday, July 22, 9 am – 4 pm. It will include sessions on growing and harvesting lavender, beekeeping and sales and marketing. To register, contact Ginny Dugan, 775-423-5186, For information about the Specialty Crop Institute and future workshops, contact Ann Louhela at 775-351-2551. <http://www.wnc.edu/news/2009-07-10b.php>



Community Opens its Heart for Swenson Family

The Fallon community raised more than \$5,000 for Sara Swenson in WNC Fallon's College for Kids On Stage! performance of Disney's "Jungle Book." Sara is the daughter of Noreen Swenson, who is the founding music director. Sara has also helped with On Stage! summer youth productions. She was diagnosed with cancer last month and the benefit performance provided money to transport her to the Bay Area for treatment. The theater kids participated in Fallon's Fourth of July parade, winning the Sweepstakes Trophy for best overall parade entry. At right, Jungle Book cast photo, by Tim Wuth.



Busy Students Take Internet Classes

Busy students who cannot attend classes on campus this fall have a choice of 78 online classes to choose from. A number of WNC degrees and certificates may be obtained entirely online, and the number of "hybrid" classes that utilize both in-class and online technology is on the rise. More than 900 students have enrolled for an online class this fall. <http://www.wnc.edu/academics/schedule/20093/web.php>

Seniors Citizens Can Enjoy Free Wellness Workshop

Western is offering a free five-week Health and Wellness workshop covering various subjects of interest to area senior citizens. The non-credit workshop meets Mondays and Wednesdays, July 20-August 19, 10 a.m.-noon, in Fallon and will be video linked to the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension office at 1329 Waterloo in Gardnerville and WNC Hawthorne. Participants will learn about nutrition, dealing with medications, finances, wills, and community resources. <http://www.wnc.edu/news/2009-07-13a.php>

ARTS

"Always Lost" Art Show

Continues through Friday, Aug. 14

College Gallery, Bristlecone Building, Carson City

The faces of 4,000 American service members who have died serving in Iraq are the inspiration for a collaboration of a unique display of photos, facts, poems and prose on display at the College Gallery in the Bristlecone Building. The art installation is of individual photographs of U.S. military casualties and the literary work they inspired, charts detailing the quantifiable aspects of the Iraq War, and photos taken by WNC students who are Iraq veterans. <http://www.wnc.edu/news/2009-06-04a.php>

ATHLETICS



Softball Team Announces New Recruits

The Western Nevada College softball team will be enhanced next season by a number of top Nevada high school student-athletes. Incoming freshmen are from northern Nevada as well as Las Vegas high schools. Interim head coach Leah Wentworth said the newcomers provide depth as well as additional talent for the team, which completed its first season this year. At left, Cassie Vondrak after she signed a letter of intent to play softball at Western next year.

<http://www.wnc.edu/news/2009-07-17b.php>

COLLEGE CORNER

Bilingual Students: Apply for Work-Study Posts

The offices of Student Services and Information & Marketing are seeking bilingual students who are interested in filling work-study positions this fall. Students are encouraged to apply if they are customer service oriented and enjoy working with the public. To determine eligibility, students must first fill out a FAFSA application, available online, and then contact Lupe Ramirez in Student Services. 445-3344.

Susan Priest Earns Literary Honor

Instructor Susan Priest has won a \$500 literary award from the Nevada Arts Council. The Fellowship Program recognizes Nevada's exceptional contemporary artists and supports ongoing development of their talents. Priest is taking a creative approach to a memoir, using both prose and poetry. Tentatively titled "Altar Ego," Priest has been working on the book for three years, and hopes to eventually have it published.



Go to "Boot Camp" to Prepare for GED Test

WNC's Office of Adult Basic Education is offering a unique delivery method of instruction this summer to prepare those studying to take the GED high school equivalency test. "GED Boot Camps" are intensive, 70-hour courses which are meeting for four days a week, three and a half hours a day, for four or five weeks. The class is followed by administration of the GED test, and the chance to enroll in college upon passage. Information: 445-4451

Child Development Center Carnival Promises Fun for Kids

Children who attend preschool and pre-kindergarten at WNC's child care center will celebrate summer with a carnival at the center on Saturday, Aug. 1, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Each classroom will have a booth with games and prizes, raffle prizes, and a petting zoo is on tap. Open enrollment for fall is also beginning.

College Donates Computers to Public Library

After upgrading one of the college computer labs on the Carson City campus, WNC donated ten personal computers to the Carson City Library so patrons can search the Internet. Phyllis Mason of Computing Services facilitated the transfer, which was very much appreciated by the public library staff.

Police Academy Students Make Annual "Pride Run"



WNC's Police Academy cadets have nearly completed their program of study, and the 21 students recently enjoyed an academy tradition, the annual "Pride Run." The cadets completed a five-mile jog from the college to the Law Enforcement Memorial on the Nevada Capitol grounds. Carson City Sheriff Ken Furlong was scheduled to speak to the cadets at the memorial. Most of the students are just a few short weeks away from completing their program and joining law enforcement agencies in Nevada.

<http://www.wnc.edu/academics/degrees/aas/lea/>

Fallon Meeting Assists Nevada Businesses

The Procurement Outreach Program, sponsored by the Nevada Commission on Economic Development, hosted a free half-day workshop at WNC Fallon on Thursday, July 16. POP assists Nevada businesses in dealing with the government, especially subcontracting plan compliance and supplier diversity programs. POP can also help with and within international markets. Presenters included Rick Horn, director of the Procurement Program, and Al DiStefano, director of Global Trade and Investment.

WNC Grad Elected to City Council

Rachel Dahl, who earned a degree from Western in 1993, was elected this summer to a four-year term on the Fallon City Council. She credits Western with getting her back on track academically after trying college at another institution. Since earning her associate degree, she attended University of Nevada, Reno and earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science.